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# Livestock and Meat SITUATION

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

LMS-46

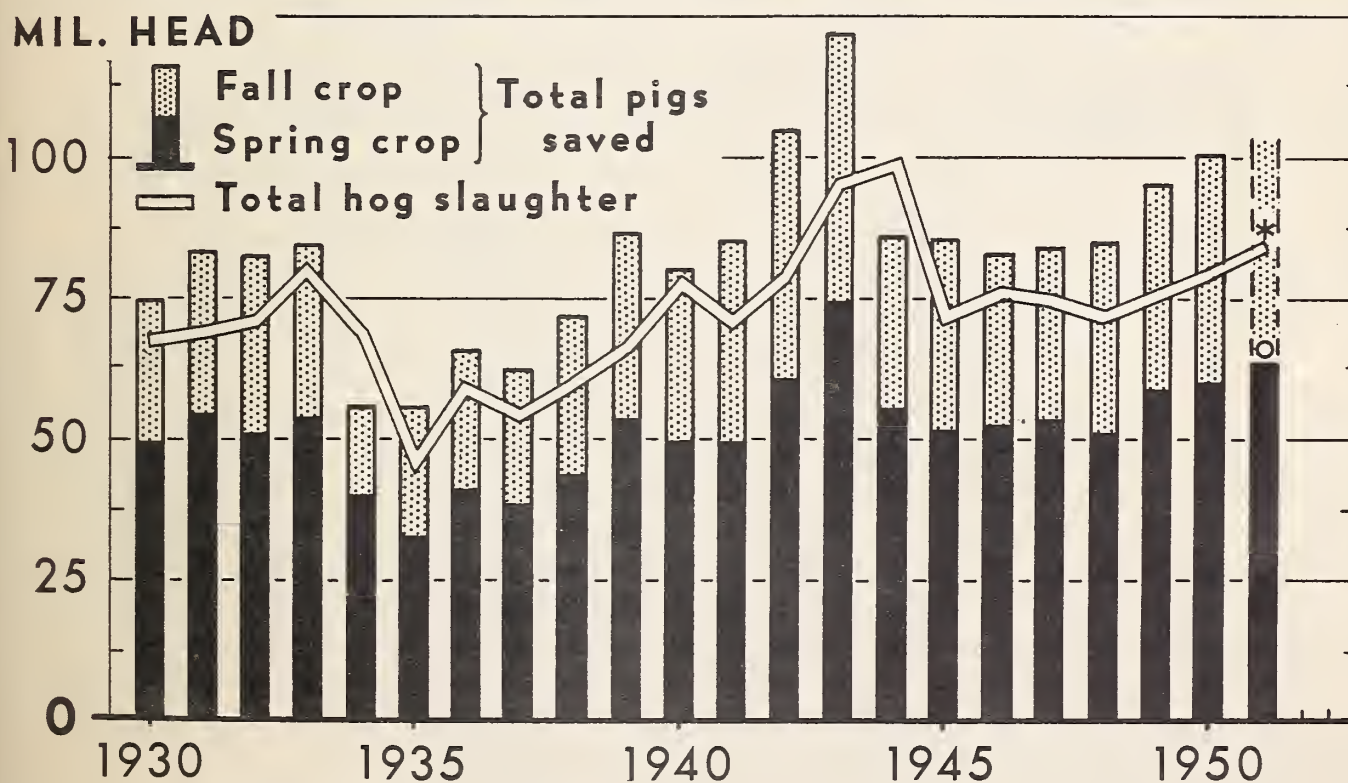
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DECEMBER 1950

In this issue:

Changes in the relative importance of  
spring and fall pig crops.

## PIG CROPS and HOG SLAUGHTER



\* 1951 SLAUGHTER IS FORECAST

○ BASED ON INTENTIONS AND AVERAGE OR LARGER THAN AVERAGE LITTERS

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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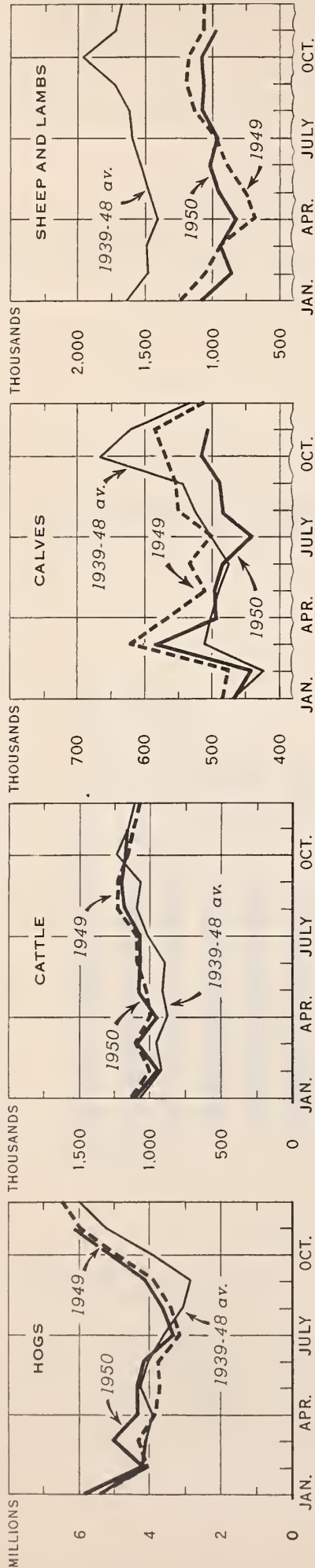
BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

Larger annual pig crops resulted in an increase in hog slaughter in 1949 and again in 1950; and the continued uptrend in pig crops will bring another increase in hog slaughter in 1951. The 1950 fall pig crop was 9 percent larger than the 1949 fall crop, and a 6 percent increase in the 1951 spring crop over the same 1950 crop is indicated by farmers' intentions

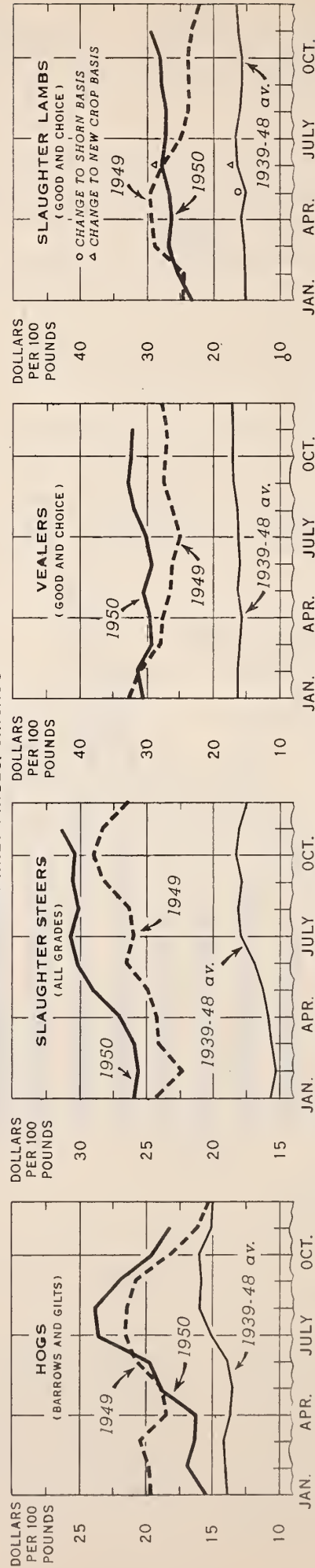
on December 1. Around 4 million more hogs may be slaughtered in 1951 than in 1950. If slaughter weights are no lighter than last year, total pork production will be sufficient to fill the military requirements now in prospect and allow for a small increase in civilian consumption per person.

# LIVESTOCK AND MEAT SITUATION

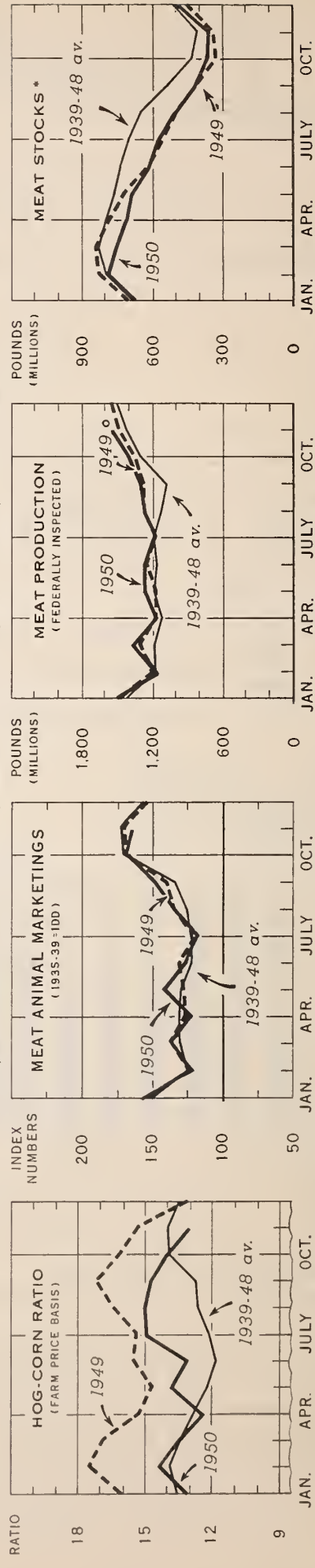
FEDERALLY INSPECTED SLAUGHTER, UNITED STATES



## MARKET PRICES, CHICAGO



## HOG-CORN RATIO, MEAT ANIMAL MARKETINGS, MEAT PRODUCTION, AND STOCKS, UNITED STATES



\* BEEF, LAMB AND MUTTON, PORK, AND MISCELLANEOUS MEATS IN MEAT PACKING PLANTS AND COMMERCIAL COLD STORAGE HOUSES, BEGINNING OF MONTH  
○ ESTIMATED



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T H E L I V E S T O C K A N D M E A T S I T U A T I O N  
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Approved by the Outlook and Situation Board, December 27, 1950

SUMMARY

Seasonally rising prices for most classes of meat animals and most meats are in prospect for this winter. A decrease in slaughter supplies of livestock as the peak marketing season passes, together with maintained or increasing demand due to defense activities, underlie this outlook.

Meat production was very large in late 1950 as the number and weight of cattle slaughter were high for that period while hog slaughter reached its peak in December. Output of meat under Federal inspection for December may have been a postwar high. Notwithstanding the large slaughter, prices of meat animals and meats generally strengthened. Prices of steers and lambs increased and prices of hogs advanced from their seasonal low reached in late November. Over-all average retail prices of meat near the year's end were up about 8 percent from a year earlier. They about equaled the records for the season set two years earlier, but were below the all-time peaks of the summer of 1948.

The recent increases in prices of slaughter steers and lambs carried them above the minimum ceiling levels specified in the Defense Production Act of 1950.

The seasonal reduction in meat production in the next month or two will be moderate, and total production in January-March may be slightly larger than a year earlier. Meat consumption per civilian consumer for January-March may be almost as large as in the same 1950 period.

Slaughter of fed cattle appears likely to hold up well early in 1951 because a substantial number of cattle about ready for market were carried over on January 1. Hog slaughter will decrease seasonally in January and February. Totals for those months are likely to show only a little gain over the same 1950 months, because the late-spring farrowings which are the source of slaughter then were only a little larger last year than in the previous year. Hog slaughter will increase again beginning sometime in March.

The 1950 fall pig crop was reported at 40.7 million head, 9 percent more than the 1949 fall crop. Farmers' intentions on December 1 were for 4 percent more sows to farrow in the spring of 1951 than last spring. If litters are of an average size with an allowance for trend, this number of sows would produce about 63.5 million pigs, 6 percent more than the 60.0 million saved from the 1950 spring crop.

The volume of cattle feeding this winter is expected to be nearly as large as last winter. However, because placements on feed during the early fall were less than a year earlier and because an even larger percentage of all cattle on feed this winter than last are young stock, the prospects are

for slaughter supplies of fed cattle to decrease in late winter and to be little if any larger this spring than last spring. The increase in total 1951 cattle slaughter over 1950 will be confined almost entirely to the second half of the year.

Fewer lambs will be fed this winter than last. The reduction is due to the smaller lamb crop and increased numbers held back for breeding.

#### REVIEW AND OUTLOOK

##### 6 Percent More Spring Pigs

Nearly 10 million sows will farrow from December 1950 through May 1951 if hog producers carry out their December 1 intentions. If litters are of an average size with an allowance for trend, this number of sows will produce about 63.5 million pigs, 6 percent more than the 60 million saved in the spring of 1950. The increase in spring pigs would be the third in succession, and the new crop would be the largest on record for peacetime years and second largest for all years. If this prospective spring pig crop should be realized and the 1951 fall crop should be no smaller than the 1950 fall crop, a total of 104 million pigs would be saved during 1951, the third largest annual crop on record.

The biggest increase in number of sows to farrow this spring, both in actual numbers and percentagewise, is reported for the West North Central States. The increase in the East North Central States is substantial but somewhat smaller. The North Central region as a whole -- the Corn Belt -- has contributed by far the largest part of the expansion in hog production the last few years. The number of sows expected to farrow in the North Central States is considerably above any recent year except 1943.

Regions outside the Corn Belt also indicate more sows to farrow this spring, but only in the South Atlantic (Southeast) region is the percent increase as large as the United States average. In the Northeast and West, where 1950 sow numbers were considerably below those in 1949 and the 1939-48 average, only slight increases are in prospect for the spring of 1951. (See table 1.)

##### 1950 Fall Crop 40,675,000 Head

The 1950 fall pig crop totaled 40.7 million head, an increase of 9 percent from last fall and the fourth increase in a row over the preceding fall. The average number of pigs saved per litter was up to a record 6.65 from the 6.51 average in the fall of 1949.

The trend shown in 1949 toward later farrowings of fall pigs was continued in 1950. There has been a greater concentration of farrowings in the major farrowing months, principally August and September, at the expense of those in June and July. (See table 2.)



Table 1.- Sows farrowed, pigs saved and pigs saved per litter, spring and fall pig crops, United States, by regions, average 1937-41, by years 1946 to date

| Spring Pig Crop       |                |                            |                |               |           |               |           |
|-----------------------|----------------|----------------------------|----------------|---------------|-----------|---------------|-----------|
| Year                  | North Atlantic | North Central<br>East West | South Atlantic | South Central | Western   | United States |           |
|                       | Thousands      | Thousands                  | Thousands      | Thousands     | Thousands | Thousands     | Thousands |
| Sows farrowed         |                |                            |                |               |           |               |           |
| 1937-41 av.           | 140            | 2,016                      | 3,417          | 580           | 1,069     | 312           | 7,534     |
| 1946                  | 144            | 2,169                      | 3,876          | 639           | 1,027     | 254           | 8,109     |
| 1947                  | 157            | 2,313                      | 4,266          | 670           | 1,003     | 243           | 8,652     |
| 1948                  | 148            | 2,113                      | 3,761          | 653           | 1,019     | 270           | 7,964     |
| 1949                  | 161            | 2,412                      | 4,395          | 688           | 1,125     | 273           | 9,054     |
| 1950 1/               | 140            | 2,613                      | 4,654          | 717           | 1,135     | 245           | 9,504     |
| 1951 2/               | 141            | 2,693                      | 4,928          | 751           | 1,158     | 249           | 9,920     |
| Pigs saved            |                |                            |                |               |           |               |           |
| 1937-41 av.           | 886            | 12,961                     | 21,472         | 3,377         | 6,157     | 1,948         | 46,801    |
| 1946                  | 984            | 14,559                     | 25,324         | 3,779         | 6,130     | 1,616         | 52,392    |
| 1947                  | 1,019          | 14,278                     | 26,031         | 3,956         | 5,992     | 1,526         | 52,802    |
| 1948                  | 985            | 14,066                     | 24,348         | 3,969         | 6,212     | 1,686         | 51,266    |
| 1949                  | 1,092          | 16,034                     | 28,340         | 4,215         | 6,996     | 1,749         | 58,426    |
| 1950 1/               | 904            | 16,553                     | 29,465         | 4,478         | 7,058     | 1,539         | 59,997    |
| 1951 2/               |                |                            |                |               |           |               | 63,500    |
| Pigs saved per litter |                |                            |                |               |           |               |           |
|                       | Number         | Number                     | Number         | Number        | Number    | Number        | Number    |
| 1937-41 av.           | 6.32           | 6.45                       | 6.30           | 5.82          | 5.76      | 6.24          | 6.22      |
| 1946                  | 6.79           | 6.71                       | 6.53           | 5.91          | 5.97      | 6.35          | 6.46      |
| 1947                  | 6.49           | 6.17                       | 6.10           | 5.90          | 5.97      | 6.27          | 6.10      |
| 1948                  | 6.63           | 6.66                       | 6.47           | 6.08          | 6.10      | 6.24          | 6.44      |
| 1949                  | 6.80           | 6.65                       | 6.45           | 6.13          | 6.22      | 6.39          | 6.45      |
| 1950 1/               | 6.46           | 6.33                       | 6.33           | 6.25          | 6.22      | 6.27          | 6.31      |
| Fall Pig Crop         |                |                            |                |               |           |               |           |
| Sows farrowed         |                |                            |                |               |           |               |           |
|                       | Thousands      | Thousands                  | Thousands      | Thousands     | Thousands | Thousands     | Thousands |
| 1937-41 av.           | 127            | 1,471                      | 1,480          | 507           | 963       | 254           | 4,802     |
| 1946                  | 120            | 1,515                      | 1,446          | 589           | 883       | 160           | 4,713     |
| 1947                  | 119            | 1,566                      | 1,534          | 598           | 908       | 182           | 4,907     |
| 1948                  | 125            | 1,631                      | 1,704          | 575           | 923       | 200           | 5,158     |
| 1949                  | 122            | 1,836                      | 1,968          | 605           | 981       | 201           | 5,713     |
| 1950 1/               | 117            | 2,015                      | 2,232          | 609           | 967       | 177           | 6,117     |
| Pigs saved            |                |                            |                |               |           |               |           |
| 1937-41 av.           | 844            | 9,756                      | 9,400          | 3,051         | 5,769     | 1,608         | 30,428    |
| 1946                  | 808            | 10,194                     | 9,574          | 3,597         | 5,382     | 993           | 30,548    |
| 1947                  | 822            | 10,258                     | 9,760          | 3,668         | 5,668     | 1,169         | 31,345    |
| 1948                  | 864            | 11,066                     | 11,280         | 3,591         | 5,834     | 1,286         | 33,921    |
| 1949                  | 827            | 12,163                     | 12,871         | 3,759         | 6,242     | 1,313         | 37,175    |
| 1950 1/               | 806            | 13,597                     | 15,008         | 3,836         | 6,268     | 1,142         | 40,657    |
| Pigs saved per litter |                |                            |                |               |           |               |           |
|                       | Number         | Number                     | Number         | Number        | Number    | Number        | Number    |
| 1937-41 av.           | 6.63           | 6.63                       | 6.34           | 6.02          | 5.99      | 6.31          | 6.33      |
| 1946                  | 6.76           | 6.73                       | 6.62           | 6.11          | 6.10      | 6.23          | 6.48      |
| 1947                  | 6.88           | 6.55                       | 6.36           | 6.13          | 6.24      | 6.45          | 6.39      |
| 1948                  | 6.90           | 6.78                       | 6.62           | 6.25          | 6.32      | 6.42          | 6.58      |
| 1949                  | 6.80           | 6.62                       | 6.54           | 6.22          | 6.36      | 6.55          | 6.51      |
| 1950 1/               | 6.89           | 6.75                       | 6.72           | 6.30          | 6.48      | 6.48          | 6.65      |

1/ Preliminary.

2/ Number indicated to farrow from breeding intentions as of December 1, 1950.

Average (1939-48) number of pigs per litter with allowance for trend used to calculate indicated number of pigs saved.

Table 2.- Number of sows farrowing and percentage distribution by months, spring and fall season, United States, average 1937-41 and by years 1946 to date

| Number, spring season     |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |
|---------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Year                      | Dec. 1/ | Jan.    | Feb.    | March   | April   | May     | Total   |
|                           | Thous.  | Thous.  | Thous.  | Thous.  | Thous.  | Thous.  | Thous.  |
| 1937-41 av.               | 290     | 409     | 791     | 1,999   | 2,605   | 1,440   | 7,534   |
| 1946                      | 296     | 358     | 703     | 2,136   | 2,962   | 1,654   | 8,109   |
| 1947                      | 301     | 393     | 914     | 2,475   | 3,063   | 1,506   | 8,652   |
| 1948                      | 263     | 367     | 762     | 2,150   | 2,874   | 1,548   | 7,964   |
| 1949                      | 303     | 467     | 988     | 2,623   | 3,090   | 1,583   | 9,054   |
| 1950                      | 275     | 447     | 1,140   | 2,899   | 3,165   | 1,578   | 9,504   |
| 1951 2/                   |         |         |         |         |         |         | 9,920   |
| Percentage, spring season |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |
|                           | Percent | Percent | Percent | Percent | Percent | Percent | Percent |
| 1937-41 av.               | 3.9     | 5.4     | 10.5    | 26.5    | 34.6    | 19.1    | 100.0   |
| 1946                      | 3.7     | 4.4     | 8.7     | 26.3    | 36.5    | 20.4    | 100.0   |
| 1947                      | 3.5     | 4.5     | 10.6    | 28.6    | 35.4    | 17.4    | 100.0   |
| 1948                      | 3.3     | 4.6     | 9.6     | 27.0    | 36.1    | 19.4    | 100.0   |
| 1949                      | 3.3     | 5.2     | 10.9    | 29.0    | 34.1    | 17.5    | 100.0   |
| 1950                      | 2.9     | 4.7     | 12.0    | 30.5    | 33.3    | 16.6    | 100.0   |
| Number, fall season       |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |
|                           | June    | July    | Aug.    | Sept.   | Oct.    | Nov.    | Total   |
|                           | Thous.  | Thous.  | Thous.  | Thous.  | Thous.  | Thous.  | Thous.  |
| 1937-41 av.               | 546     | 510     | 879     | 1,483   | 939     | 445     | 4,802   |
| 1946                      | 669     | 524     | 872     | 1,451   | 820     | 377     | 4,713   |
| 1947                      | 644     | 559     | 1,010   | 1,512   | 840     | 342     | 4,907   |
| 1948                      | 742     | 582     | 1,002   | 1,549   | 885     | 398     | 5,158   |
| 1949                      | 751     | 638     | 1,205   | 1,796   | 923     | 400     | 5,713   |
| 1950                      | 739     | 633     | 1,323   | 1,944   | 1,035   | 443     | 6,117   |
| Percentage, fall season   |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |
|                           | Percent | Percent | Percent | Percent | Percent | Percent | Percent |
| 1937-41 av.               | 11.4    | 10.6    | 18.3    | 30.9    | 19.5    | 9.3     | 100.0   |
| 1946                      | 14.2    | 11.1    | 18.5    | 30.8    | 17.4    | 8.0     | 100.0   |
| 1947                      | 13.1    | 11.4    | 20.6    | 30.8    | 17.1    | 7.0     | 100.0   |
| 1948                      | 14.4    | 11.3    | 19.4    | 30.0    | 17.2    | 7.7     | 100.0   |
| 1949                      | 13.1    | 11.2    | 21.1    | 31.4    | 16.2    | 7.0     | 100.0   |
| 1950                      | 12.1    | 10.3    | 21.6    | 31.8    | 16.9    | 7.3     | 100.0   |

1/ December of preceding year.

2/ Spring farrowings indicated from breeding intentions report.



### Hog Slaughter Passes Season's High

During the fourth quarter of 1950 hog slaughter and pork production was at a new peacetime high. The number of hogs slaughtered under Federal inspection in October was the largest on record for that month. November slaughter was greater than for any previous November except 1943. Weekly Federally inspected hog slaughter hit its 1950 peak the week ended December 9. The estimated 1,761 thousand head slaughtered that week was a weekly high for the four years for which such records are available. Slaughter declined late in December and the total for the month was probably somewhat above the December 1949 slaughter. Total slaughter under Federal inspection for the four months September through December, which is made up chiefly of hogs from the spring pig crop, was about 4 percent larger than a year earlier.

### First Quarter 1951 Hog Slaughter To Show Small Gain Over 1950

The number of hogs slaughtered in the first three months of 1951 is expected to be larger than a year earlier, but by a smaller average percentage than in the fall-winter season to date. The chief reason for this prospect is the very small increase in farrowings late last spring over the previous spring, which will restrict the slaughter supplies in the latter part of this marketing season. On the other hand, the increase in slaughter throughout the current season has been more evenly distributed by months than would have been expected from the distribution of farrowings last spring. A small increase in first quarter 1951 slaughter over a year earlier would be in line with this pattern to date.

### Hog Prices Up From Seasonal Low; Further Rise Likely

Hog prices reached their seasonal peak this year late in August. Except for two weeks in October, they declined week by week during September, October and November. The monthly average price of barrows and gilts at 7 markets was \$23.89 per 100 pounds in August and \$18.05 in November, a reduction of 24 percent. In 1949 the corresponding prices were \$21.32 in August and \$15.21 in December, the low month, for a reduction of 29 percent. The lowest weekly price this fall at 7 markets was the \$17.70 average the week ended November 25. Prices showed no strong movement during early December, but increased sharply about the middle of the month. A further seasonal rise in prices is expected in the first two months of 1951 as marketings are seasonally reduced.

### Price Differentials Favor Heavier Hogs Than Last Year

Price discounts for very light weight hogs have been generally wider this past year than in 1948 and 1949, and those for heavy weights have been smaller. At Chicago the discount for 160-180 pound barrows and gilts compared with the 200-220 pound class averaged \$0.73 per 100 pounds in January-November, compared with average yearly discounts of \$0.44 in 1949 and \$0.47 in 1948. The discount for 240-270 pound hogs compared with medium weights this past year has been only two-thirds as large as last year and one-third that of two years ago. In early December the discount for heavy hogs at Chicago was about \$0.30 per 100 pounds. A year before it had been about \$0.60.

These smaller discounts for heavy hogs do not necessarily mean that returns to the farmer were greatest for feeding to heavier weights, but they do suggest that the risks incurred in holding hogs for the longer feeding periods were less than in previous years. With a strong demand for pork seemingly assured and demand for lard also likely to hold up well in 1951, it is probable that heavy hogs will continue to bring comparatively high prices. There will be seasonal changes, however, due to changing supplies of hogs of the various weights. During the next month or two, for example, average weights will increase and finished hogs over 240 pounds are expected to receive an increasing price discount; then later the margin will become narrower as hogs from the 1950 fall pig crop are marketed.

These prospects for relative prices by weight classes, taken with the probable strong demand for hogs in 1951, point to slightly heavier average market weights than in 1950. In September and October of the current fall-winter season, weights of barrows and gilts at 7 markets averaged a little above a year previously. November and December weights were about equal to a year earlier.

#### Hog-Corn Ratio About Average

The hog-corn ratio based on average farm prices was lower in 1950 than in 1949, when it was very favorable for hog production. The United States ratio on November 15 was 13.0 compared with 15.3 in November 1949 and 18.0 in November 1948 (table 3). The November 1950 ratio was about equal to the long-time average for the month.

Table 3.- United States average hog-corn price ratio calculated from average price received by farmers for corn, and from loan price for corn, by months 1949 to date

| Year<br>and<br>Month | Price            | Corn price per bushel |               |   | Hog-corn ratio |              |
|----------------------|------------------|-----------------------|---------------|---|----------------|--------------|
|                      | : received       | : Price received by:  | Loan          | : | : Based        | :            |
|                      | : by farmers     | : farmers (average    | : price       | : | : on price     | : Based on   |
|                      | : for hogs, per: | : for all grades      | : (Basis corn | : | : received     | : loan price |
|                      | : 100 pounds     | : of corn sold)       | : grading #3) | : | : by farmers   | :            |
|                      | : Dollars        | Dollars               | Dollars       |   |                |              |
| 1949                 | :                |                       |               |   |                |              |
| January              | : 19.60          | 1.25                  | 1.44          |   | 15.7           | 13.6         |
| February             | : 19.30          | 1.12                  | 1.44          |   | 17.2           | 13.4         |
| March                | : 20.00          | 1.18                  | 1.44          |   | 16.9           | 13.9         |
| April                | : 18.30          | 1.22                  | 1.44          |   | 15.0           | 12.7         |
| May                  | : 17.90          | 1.22                  | 1.44          |   | 14.7           | 12.4         |
| June                 | : 18.80          | 1.21                  | 1.44          |   | 15.5           | 13.1         |
| July                 | : 18.60          | 1.25                  |               |   | 14.9           |              |
| August               | : 19.40          | 1.18                  |               |   | 16.4           |              |
| September            | : 19.80          | 1.16                  |               |   | 17.1           |              |
| October              | : 17.60          | 1.09                  | 1.40          |   | 16.1           | 12.6         |
| November             | : 15.60          | 1.02                  | 1.40          |   | 15.3           | 11.1         |
| December             | : 14.80          | 1.13                  | 1.40          |   | 13.1           | 10.6         |
| 1950                 | :                |                       |               |   |                |              |
| January              | : 15.10          | 1.15                  | 1.40          |   | 13.1           | 10.8         |
| February             | : 16.60          | 1.16                  | 1.40          |   | 14.3           | 11.9         |
| March                | : 16.10          | 1.19                  | 1.40          |   | 13.5           | 11.5         |
| April                | : 15.60          | 1.26                  | 1.40          |   | 12.4           | 11.1         |
| May                  | : 18.50          | 1.34                  | 1.40          |   | 13.8           | 13.2         |
| June                 | : 17.80          | 1.36                  | 1.40          |   | 13.1           | 12.7         |
| July                 | : 21.50          | 1.44                  | 1.40          |   | 14.9           | 15.4         |
| August               | : 21.60          | 1.44                  | 1.40          |   | 15.0           | 15.4         |
| September            | : 21.10          | 1.44                  | 1.40          |   | 14.7           | 15.1         |
| October              | : 19.20          | 1.37                  | 1.47          |   | 14.0           | 13.1         |
| November             | : 17.80          | 1.37                  | 1.47          |   | 13.0           | 12.1         |



The hog-corn ratio was lower this fall than last because the price of corn was up more than the price of hogs. The United States average price of corn on November 15 was \$1.37 per bushel. In November 1949 it was \$1.02. The 1950 corn crop was 7 percent smaller than the 1949 crop, the quality probably averaged somewhat poorer, and demand for corn this winter is considerably stronger.

The hog-corn ratio will probably rise within the next few months as hog prices are expected to advance seasonally relatively more than corn prices. The ratio may be a little above average in much of 1951, and thus still on the favorable side for hog production, but less favorable than during the past two years.

#### 1950 Cattle Slaughter

Nearly Equals 1949: Beef  
Production Up Slightly

Cattle slaughter during 1950 about equaled that of 1949. The number slaughtered commercially the first 10 months of the year was 1.3 percent smaller than in the same period of 1949. In November and the first weeks of December, however, Federally inspected slaughter of cattle was above a year earlier, largely because of comparatively large marketings of cattle from feed lots. Cattle slaughter for all of 1950 probably totaled within 1 percent of 1949 slaughter.

The large number of well-finished cattle slaughtered in 1950 raised average slaughter weights above those the previous year. Consequently, the year's beef production was up slightly from 1949.

#### Early December a Peak in Meat

Production; Seasonal Decline Due

Large marketings of fed cattle late in 1950 prevented the usual seasonal decline in total cattle slaughter. Slaughter of cattle under Federal inspection in November was almost as large as in October, and little change is likely to be reported for December. Slaughter in November was up 3 percent from November 1949, and the gain in December over last December was probably larger.

With a large cattle slaughter coming at the same time as the season's peak hog slaughter, total meat production for December was at the highest level for 1950. Production under Federal inspection for the month may have passed the previous postwar high reached in January 1947.

Cattle slaughter will probably continue large early in 1951. Substantial numbers of long-term fed cattle were probably carried into the new year, and are due to be marketed in the first month or two. Cattle slaughter is likely to decrease gradually as the supply of long-feds diminishes. Since hog slaughter will also be declining seasonally until sometime in March, total meat production will taper off during the early 1951 period. Total production for the January-March quarter may be only slightly larger than a year earlier -- perhaps up enough to provide almost the same consumption per person as in January-March 1950.



### Cattle Feeding Nearly Equal to Last Year

According to indications on December 1, nearly as many cattle will be fed this season as last. Fewer cattle probably will be fed in the Corn Belt this year but more in the western States. In California, feeding activity is expected to be at a record high level and, with the exception of Oregon, prospects elsewhere in the western States are for cattle feeding at the same or higher level than a year ago.

The movement of feeder cattle into the Corn Belt from July through October was below a year earlier but larger than in most other recent years. The movement this fall has followed the usual seasonal pattern more closely than the quite early movement in the fall of 1949. The number moved into the Corn Belt in November was 11 percent above that in November 1949, and the December total also was above a year earlier. Supplies of feeder cattle for the Corn Belt in the next month or two may continue to be large for the season.

Although there is still considerable short-term feeding, an unusually large number of the stocker and feeder cattle and calves going to the country have been light weight animals intended for long-term feeding. These will not be ready for slaughter until the latter part of 1951. Slaughter of fed cattle is likely to decline during the late winter and be no larger in the spring months of 1951 than in the corresponding months of 1950, but is expected to increase in the second half of the year and to reach a high level near the end of the year.

### Stocker and Feeder Prices Hit New High

Even though numbers shipped have not declined as much as last year and have recently been larger than a year ago, prices of feeder and stocker steers rose to a new high early in December. The average price of \$29.62 per 100 pounds for all sales at Kansas City the week ended December 7 was \$0.75 above the previous record set in July 1948. It was \$7.56 above the price in the same week of December 1949.

### Rising Prices For Well-Finished Cattle

Prices of cattle for slaughter were relatively stable beginning about mid-1950, but have shown a tendency to advance in recent weeks. The average price of slaughter steers at Chicago moved up about \$1.00 per 100 pounds from October to November and increased at nearly the same rate during early December. Prices of the top grades advanced most. Demand is likely to remain strong, not only for the best grades of slaughter cattle but for the lower grades as well. The continued interest in feeder cattle to refill feed lots and their high prices is a factor supporting the demand for the lower grades of slaughter cattle.

Fewer Sheep on Feed; Feeder  
Lamb Prices a Record

Fewer sheep and lambs are expected to be fed for market this winter than a year ago because fewer have been available for feeding. The 1950 lamb crop was smaller than the 1949 crop, and there has been strong demand for lambs for breeding stock. Most Corn Belt States will feed fewer lambs than last year, as will western States.

Shipments of sheep and lambs into the Corn Belt were early this year. Feeder lambs from most of the western supply areas were heavier in weight than last year, and a shorter feeding period has been in prospect. Many lambs have already moved to market from feed lots. On the other hand, many of the lambs placed on wheat pastures failed to make usual gains because of deterioration of those pastures, and will be marketed only after a period of feeding in feed lots. It is likely that marketings of lambs from feed lots will reach their seasonal peak earlier than usual.

Prices of feeder lambs have been record high. In fact, they have set new records in almost each successive week since May. The average price at Omaha in early December was \$30.00 per 100 pounds, much above the \$22.50 in December 1949.

Prices of Sheep and Lambs  
For Slaughter Also High

Prices of sheep and lambs continued strong during the first part of December in the face of increased market receipts. Woolled Good and Choice slaughter lambs at Chicago averaged \$31.02 the week ending December 16, \$9.87 above the same week the previous year, and the highest on record for that week. It was near the all-time record of \$31.15 for woolled lambs and \$31.75 for spring lambs set in the spring of 1949.

Prices of mature sheep have been even stronger. The average farm price of sheep in mid-November was \$13.20 per 100 pounds, 40 cents above the October price, which was the previous high in 40 years of record. Shorn Good and Choice ewes at Chicago for the week ending December 16 averaged \$16.12, \$5.12 above a year ago.

Prices of lambs are expected to continue strong during the first half of 1951, although there may be some temporary declines if marketings of fed lambs are bunched. Prices of ewes may also strengthen further after the first of the year but may not show the usual full seasonal increase.

Strong Demand for Meat,  
Seasonally Reduced Supply,  
To Bring Higher Prices

Steady to rising prices for meat animals at the early-December peak in meat production are evidence of the strength of demand for meat. An increase in consumer incomes is the major cause.



Disposable incomes per person have increased fairly steadily since the middle of 1949. By the third quarter of 1950 they were 7 1/2 percent above a year earlier (table 4). Incomes are continuing upward.

Supplies of meat have increased less. Consumption per person was slightly larger in each of the first two quarters of 1950 than of 1949, but was slightly smaller in the third quarter. In the fourth quarter, consumption per person may again have been a little above the preceding year.

Retail meat prices the last months of 1950 were about equal to record highs for the season but were less than the all-time peaks of the summer of 1948. The index of United States average retail prices of meat published by the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics was 250 in October (1935-39=100), within 4 points of the October record established two years before. Price trends at New York and Baltimore in November and December indicate that over-all average meat prices for those months were about 8 percent higher than a year earlier and about equal to those two years earlier. Prices of each of the three meats in November-December were higher than in the same 1949 months, while prices of beef and lamb were higher, but pork lower, than in November-December 1948.

Expanding defense expenditures are expected to add further to consumer incomes in 1951. Since meat supplies per person early in the year will decline seasonally and will be no larger than a year earlier, the upward pressure on prices will be stronger than during this period last year.

The Defense Production Act of 1950 authorizes ceilings on commodity prices as well as other controls. The Act specifies minimum levels below which no price ceilings on agricultural products could be set. In general, prices of meat animals during much of the fall were not greatly different from the lowest possible ceilings, but recent increases in prices of slaughter steers and lambs brought those species into a range that could be subject to control.

The Economic Stabilization Agency has announced a voluntary price freeze as of December 1. No directive has been issued elaborating its application to meats.

#### Meat, Other Food Prices and Consumer Incomes Far Above Prewar

In the past several years average retail prices not only of meats but of most foods have been far above their prewar levels, having responded in varying degrees to the large increase that has taken place in consumer incomes. Disposable personal income has recently been about three times prewar (table 5).

Compared with prewar, the advance in prices of meat has been greater than that of all other foods considered together. Certain food groups, such as cereals and fresh and canned fruits and vegetables, have risen substantially less than meats. Certain others, notably the beverage group, have shown as much or more price increase since prewar than has meats.



Table 4.- Consumption and retail value of meat compared with disposable personal income seasonally adjusted, by quarter years, 1949 to date

| Quarter-<br>year | All meat            |                        |                     |                        |   |   |
|------------------|---------------------|------------------------|---------------------|------------------------|---|---|
|                  | Civilian con-       | Average retail         | Retail value        | Disposable             |   |   |
|                  | sumption per capita | price per pound 1/     | of civilian         | personal               |   |   |
|                  | Actual              | Seasonally<br>adjusted | Actual<br>2/        | Seasonally<br>adjusted | per capita,<br>index no.<br>seasonally<br>adjusted 3/ | per capita,<br>index no.<br>seasonally<br>adjusted 3/ |
|                  | Pounds              | Pounds                 | Cents               | Cents                  | Percent   | Percent   |
| 1949             |                     |                        |                     |                        |   |   |
| Jan.-Mar.        | 37.1                | 36.0                   | ---                 | ---                    | 244   | 250   |
| Apr.-June        | 34.9                | 37.2                   | ---                 | ---                    | 255   | 246   |
| July-Sept.       | 34.6                | 36.9                   | ---                 | ---                    | 250   | 241   |
| Oct.-Dec.        | 37.3                | 33.8                   | ---                 | ---                    | 223   | 242   |
| Year             | 143.9               | 143.9                  | ---                 | ---                    | 243   | 245   |
| 1950             |                     |                        |                     |                        |   |   |
| Jan.-Mar.        | 37.4                | 36.1                   | ---                 | ---                    | 238   | 255   |
| Apr.-June        | 35.3                | 37.7                   | ---                 | ---                    | 264   | 252   |
| July-Sept.       | 34.2                | 36.6                   | ---                 | ---                    | 270   | 259   |
|                  |                     |                        |                     |                        |   |   |
|                  |                     |                        | Beef                |                        |   |   |
| 1949             |                     |                        |                     |                        |   |   |
| Jan.-Mar.        | 16.0                | 15.8                   | 64.0                | 65.2                   | 257   | 250   |
| Apr.-June        | 16.0                | 17.3                   | 65.7                | 66.2                   | 286   | 246   |
| July-Sept.       | 16.4                | 16.3                   | 68.2                | 66.4                   | 270   | 241   |
| Oct.-Dec.        | 15.1                | 14.1                   | 69.3                | 69.4                   | 243   | 242   |
| Year             | 63.5                | 63.5                   | 66.8                | 66.8                   | 264   | 245   |
| 1950             |                     |                        |                     |                        |   |   |
| Jan.-Mar.        | 15.6                | 15.4                   | 67.2                | 68.4                   | 263   | 255   |
| Apr.-June        | 15.7                | 17.0                   | 71.9                | 72.4                   | 306   | 252   |
| July-Sept.       | 16.0                | 16.0                   | 77.6                | 75.6                   | 300   | 259   |
|                  |                     |                        |                     |                        |   |   |
|                  |                     |                        | Pork excluding lard |                        |   |   |
| 1949             |                     |                        |                     |                        |   |   |
| Jan.-Mar.        | 17.9                | 16.6                   | 47.0                | 48.4                   | 235   | 250   |
| Apr.-June        | 16.1                | 16.7                   | 47.4                | 48.2                   | 235   | 246   |
| July-Sept.       | 14.8                | 17.4                   | 49.4                | 47.6                   | 242   | 241   |
| Oct.-Dec.        | 18.8                | 16.9                   | 43.9                | 43.6                   | 215   | 242   |
| Year             | 67.6                | 67.6                   | 46.9                | 46.9                   | 232   | 245   |
| 1950             |                     |                        |                     |                        |   |   |
| Jan.-Mar.        | 18.8                | 17.4                   | 41.7                | 42.9                   | 219   | 255   |
| Apr.-June        | 16.8                | 17.5                   | 44.8                | 45.5                   | 234   | 252   |
| July-Sept.       | 15.1                | 17.7                   | 51.9                | 50.0                   | 258   | 259   |

1/ Not calculated for all meats combined since the retail value for all meats is the sum of values for individual meats, rather than a product of quantity times price for all meats.

2/ Weighted retail prices for all important cuts.

3/ 1935-39=100.

Table 5.- Index numbers of retail prices of meat and other foods, disposable income and commercial meat production, 1935-47, by months 1948 to date 1/

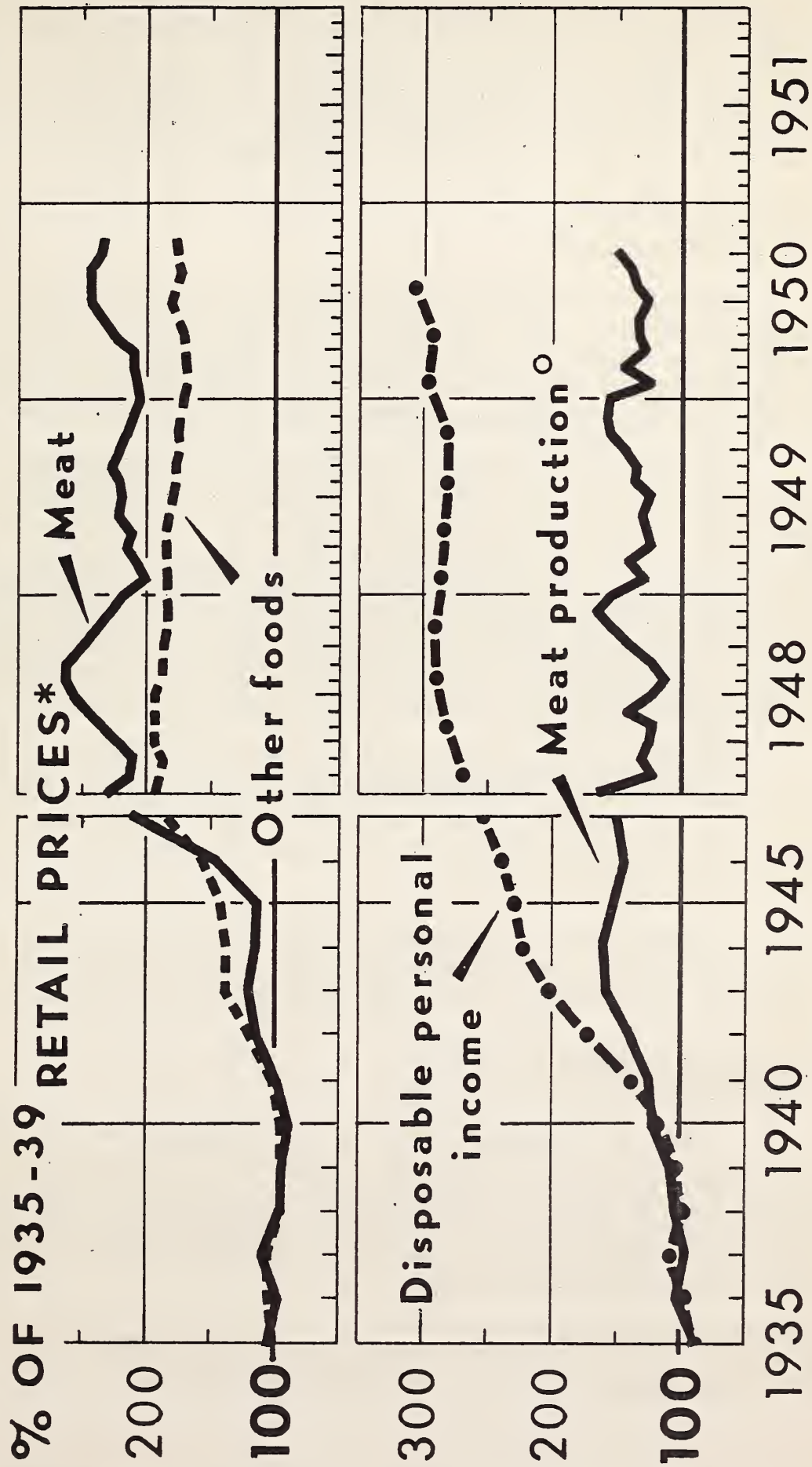
| Year  | Meat prices <u>2/</u> | Prices foods : other than meat <u>2/</u> | Disposable : personal income <u>3/</u> | Commercial meat production <u>4/</u> |
|-------|-----------------------|--|--|--------------------------------------|
| 1935  | 104                   | 101                                      | 87.6                                   | 87.8                                 |
| 1936  | 99                    | 104                                      | 99.9                                   | 103.6                                |
| 1937  | 108                   | 106                                      | 107.4                                  | 97.0                                 |
| 1938  | 96                    | 96                                       | 99.0                                   | 102.4                                |
| 1939  | 93                    | 93                                       | 106.1                                  | 109.2                                |
| 1940  | 89                    | 95                                       | 114.5                                  | 120.0                                |
| 1941  | 101                   | 102                                      | 139.1                                  | 124.7                                |
| 1942  | 117                   | 121                                      | 176.5                                  | 141.0                                |
| 1943  | 121                   | 139                                      | 200.2                                  | 157.4                                |
| 1944  | 115                   | 138                                      | 222.2                                  | 162.4                                |
| 1945  | 113                   | 142                                      | 228.4                                  | 151.3                                |
| 1946  | 145                   | 158                                      | 240.2                                  | 145.3                                |
| 1947  | 210                   | 182                                      | 256.2                                  | 150.0                                |
| 1948  |                       |  |  |                                      |
| Jan.  | 230                   | 195                                      |  | 166.2                                |
| Feb.  | 213                   | 193                                      | 271.8                                  | 126.4                                |
| Mar.  | 211                   | 190                                      |  | 132.4                                |
| Apr.  | 221                   | 194                                      |  | 126.0                                |
| May   | 233                   | 194                                      | 283.6                                  | 122.9                                |
| June  | 246                   | 194                                      |  | 143.0                                |
| July  | 255                   | 194                                      |  | 121.3                                |
| Aug.  | 261                   | 190                                      | 291.0                                  | 114.5                                |
| Sept. | 259                   | 189                                      |  | 125.9                                |
| Oct.  | 248                   | 188                                      |  | 139.4                                |
| Nov.  | 237                   | 186                                      | 292.5                                  | 155.1                                |
| Dec.  | 228                   | 184                                      |  | 166.8                                |
| 1949  |                       |  |  |                                      |
| Jan.  | 219                   | 186                                      |  | 156.1                                |
| Feb.  | 200                   | 184                                      | 287.1                                  | 129.1                                |
| Mar.  | 208                   | 184                                      |  | 141.3                                |
| Apr.  | 214                   | 184                                      |  | 125.9                                |
| May   | 212                   | 185                                      | 284.5                                  | 127.1                                |
| June  | 223                   | 183                                      |  | 132.5                                |
| July  | 220                   | 180                                      |  | 124.8                                |
| Aug.  | 222                   | 178                                      | 279.8                                  | 136.8                                |
| Sept. | 227                   | 179                                      |  | 138.1                                |
| Oct.  | 221                   | 175                                      |  | 144.4                                |
| Nov.  | 214                   | 177                                      | 282.4                                  | 158.3                                |
| Dec.  | 209                   | 174                                      |  | 160.6                                |
| 1950  |                       |  |  |                                      |
| Jan.  | 205                   | 172                                      |  | 159.2                                |
| Feb.  | 207                   | 170                                      | 298.6                                  | 126.3                                |
| Mar.  | 210                   | 171                                      | 145.5                                  | 145.5                                |
| Apr.  | 211                   | 172                                      |  | 128.5                                |
| May   | 224                   | 173                                      | 295.7                                  | 137.5                                |
| June  | 234                   | 177                                      |  | 136.5                                |
| July  | 244                   | 181                                      |  | 127.8                                |
| Aug.  | 245                   | 177                                      | 309.4                                  | 137.0                                |
| Sept. | 246                   | 175                                      |  | 140.0                                |
| Oct.  | 237                   | 177                                      |  | 150.0                                |
| Nov.  | 234                   | 179                                      |  | ---                                  |

1/ 1935-39=100. 2/ BAE "market basket" data. 3/ Department of Commerce data.

4/ Total U. S. production except farm.



# MEAT AND OTHER FOOD PRICES, INCOMES, AND MEAT PRODUCTION





There are at least two major reasons for differences in present relative price levels of various food groups, as compared against a prewar base. When consumers have larger incomes they increase their demand for some kinds of foods, such as meats, more than for others. A second reason is that supplies of some foods change faster in response to demand than do others. Meat production has increased much since prewar years -- 40 percent more meat was produced commercially in 1949 than in a 1935-39 average year -- but it has not increased as much as demand. Hence, prices have risen considerably. (See table 5 and chart, page 15.)

#### Federal Beef Grade Standards Changed

Effective December 29 the Federal grade standards for steer, heifer and cow carcasses were revised. The changes were designed to make the grades more useful in reflecting beef production practices and consumer preferences, and were made by the U. S. Department of Agriculture in cooperation with producers, packers, retailers and others.

The changes include: (1) Combining the old Prime and Choice beef grades under the name Prime. Previously, the grade name Prime had little application because less than 1 percent of the beef graded qualified for that grade. (2) The old Good grade is renamed Choice. (3) A new Good grade consisting of beef from the higher quality young cattle previously graded Commercial. Commercial beef is now mostly beef from older cattle previously so graded. The dividing of the old Commercial grade permits a separate designation for high quality beef from young animals that did not previously qualify for a higher grade because of its low ratio of fat to lean.

These grade revisions did not affect standards for Utility, Cutter and Canner grades. To facilitate the change-over to the new grades, any retailer, wholesaler, packer or other meat handler may request to have beef Federally graded prior to December 29 restamped with the new grade designation without charge.

Federal grade standards for slaughter cattle have also been revised in line with the new beef grades. It is anticipated that changes in the standards for grades of veal and calf carcasses will soon be proposed. 1/

#### World Wool Production Continues to Rise

World wool production in 1950, according to the fall survey of the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations, is estimated at approximately 4,000 million pounds, grease basis, an increase of 140 million pounds over the 1949 output, and approximately 2 percent above the 1936-40 average output. About 3,150 million pounds of the 1950 clip was apparel wool and the rest coarse or carpet wool.

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1/ A more detailed discussion of the Federal meat grading system was given in The Livestock and Meat Situation for May 1950.

Except for some reductions during 1947 and 1948 due to adverse weather conditions, wool production has increased steadily since the war in almost all the major wool producing countries other than the United States and Canada. The estimated 1950 production in Oceania (Australia and New Zealand) is a new high. African production has increased slowly since 1947 and is still not up to 1941-45 levels. Wool production in Argentina and Uruguay, which make up the bulk of South American output, has increased for two years but is still below the peak reached in 1946. Although a steady increase has been noted in Europe, prewar levels have not been attained. Production in the United States and Canada, which had been declining for six years, in 1950 was very close to that of 1949.

#### Lard, Tallow Off Import Control

The U. S. Department of Agriculture on November 25 removed from import control a number of fats and oils including lard, edible and inedible tallow, oleo oil and stearine, and fatty acids. The action was taken in line with the Department's general policy of removing import controls as soon as practicable. Among the items remaining under import restrictions were lard compounds and combinations and mixtures of animal and vegetable oils.

#### USDA Buys Smoked Picnics

The Department of Agriculture on November 17 and December 5 announced the contemplated purchase of a substantial quantity of smoked regular pork shoulder picnics for the National School Lunch Program for delivery during January and February. Offers to sell were submitted by a number of processors stating quantities, prices and other information requested under the terms of the announcements. A number of offers were accepted, and a counter offer was made to bidders in an attempt to purchase additional amounts. As of December 31 about 8.4 million pounds of smoked picnics were contracted for, less than half the purchase originally contemplated.

#### December 1 Holdings of Meat in Cold Storage Above Last Year

About 137 million pounds of meat were added to public cold storage holdings during November, bringing the December 1 total to 542 million pounds as compared with 493 million pounds on the same date in 1949. The December 1, 1950 quantity was larger than a year earlier for each kind of meat. In the first part of 1950 the quantities in storage were considerably below corresponding months in 1949, but net withdrawals during the summer were smaller this year than last.

Pork in storage increased 100 million pounds during November. The November 1949 increase was 88 million pounds and the 1945-49 average change for the month was 89 million pounds. Total pork holdings on December 1 were 319 million pounds, 22 million more than a year earlier and the most for the date since 1943.



Beef stocks increased 19 million pounds during November, raising December 1 holdings to 114 million pounds, more than last year's holding but below the 1945-49 average. Beef stocks were at their low point for the year on July 1 and have risen slowly since that time, whereas last year's holdings declined to a low on October 1.

A large livestock slaughter in December probably resulted in sizable storage operations, and the holdings on January 1 may have been above last year's level and above the average of the past five years.

#### World Hog Slaughter Continues Upward Trend

Commercial hog slaughter in the principal pork producing countries for which data are available was probably about 16 percent greater in 1950 than a year earlier, and about 30 percent above the prewar level, according to estimates summarized by the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations.

Hog slaughter in North America was approximately 7 percent above 1949, and substantially above prewar. Slaughter in European countries in 1950 was about two-thirds larger than in the preceding year but still below the 1934-38 average. Slaughter in South America declined slightly, largely due to the severe drought in Argentina. In Australia and New Zealand, hog slaughter was slightly below 1949, and well below prewar.

World hog slaughter for 1951 can be expected to be somewhat larger than the 1950 total, since increases seem likely under anticipated conditions in the majority of the producing countries. The largest gains are expected to occur in North America, particularly the United States and Canada. Increases are also expected in most of the European countries. Argentine hog slaughter is likely to be relatively larger and small increases may occur in Australia and New Zealand.

#### Canada to Send Fewer Cattle to the United States

Canadian cattle and beef are expected to move into the United States during the next year or two at a lower rate than during the past two years. This is a conclusion presented by C. L. Harlan, who recently conducted a study of Canadian conditions and prospects. The increased value of the Canadian dollar in terms of the United States dollar means that Canadian producers will receive relatively lower prices for exports to this country. Too, exports of Canadian cattle and beef probably could not be maintained at the level of the past two years without reducing breeding stock still further or cutting domestic Canadian consumption.

Canadian hog numbers are sharply below wartime peaks but substantially above prewar levels. With the large feed grain production this year and large supplies of frost damaged wheat, a substantial increase in production of hogs is likely in 1951. Canadian sheep numbers have dropped during the past six years, paralleling the decline in the United States. Lamb feeding is expected to be smaller this winter because of this reduction and the movement of considerable numbers of lambs to U. S. feeding lots.



## CHANGES IN THE RELATIVE IMPORTANCE OF SPRING AND FALL PIG CROPS

The United States annual pig crop -- a term designating the number of pigs saved each year -- is made up of crops from two farrowing seasons. The spring season centers about March and April and the spring pig crop is the number of pigs saved in the six months December through May. The fall season centers in August and September and comprises the months June through November.

The spring pig crop is larger than the fall crop. The difference between the two, however, has diminished over the past 25 years. In 1924, spring pigs were 68 percent of the year's total, and fall pigs 32 percent. In 1950, spring pigs were 60 percent and fall pigs 40 percent of the total (table 6).

Table 6.- Combined pig crop, and distribution by season, United States, by years, 1924-50

|      | Pig crop        |            |            | Percent of annual crop |      |
|------|-----------------|------------|------------|------------------------|------|
| Year | Annual<br>total | By seasons |            | Spring                 | Fall |
|      |                 | Spring 1/  | Fall 2/    |                        |      |
|      |                 | 1,000 head | 1,000 head |                        |      |
| 1924 | 50,218          | 23,847     | 74,065     | 67.8                   | 32.2 |
| 1925 | 47,859          | 22,451     | 70,310     | 68.1                   | 31.9 |
| 1926 | 50,579          | 24,865     | 75,444     | 67.0                   | 33.0 |
| 1927 | 54,502          | 26,744     | 81,246     | 67.1                   | 32.9 |
| 1928 | 52,390          | 26,292     | 78,682     | 66.6                   | 33.4 |
| 1929 | 50,479          | 25,646     | 76,125     | 66.3                   | 33.7 |
| 1930 | 49,332          | 24,803     | 74,135     | 66.5                   | 33.5 |
| 1931 | 53,984          | 29,192     | 83,176     | 64.9                   | 35.1 |
| 1932 | 51,031          | 31,494     | 82,525     | 61.8                   | 38.2 |
| 1933 | 53,460          | 30,740     | 84,200     | 63.5                   | 36.5 |
| 1934 | 39,698          | 17,068     | 56,766     | 69.9                   | 30.1 |
| 1935 | 32,684          | 23,260     | 56,144     | 58.6                   | 41.4 |
| 1936 | 41,422          | 24,303     | 65,725     | 63.0                   | 37.0 |
| 1937 | 38,525          | 23,994     | 62,519     | 61.6                   | 38.4 |
| 1938 | 43,289          | 28,566     | 71,855     | 60.2                   | 39.8 |
| 1939 | 53,238          | 33,714     | 86,952     | 61.2                   | 38.8 |
| 1940 | 49,584          | 30,282     | 79,866     | 62.1                   | 37.9 |
| 1941 | 49,368          | 35,584     | 84,952     | 58.1                   | 41.9 |
| 1942 | 61,093          | 43,810     | 104,903    | 58.2                   | 41.8 |
| 1943 | 74,223          | 47,584     | 121,807    | 60.9                   | 39.1 |
| 1944 | 55,754          | 30,905     | 86,659     | 64.3                   | 35.7 |
| 1945 | 52,189          | 34,593     | 86,782     | 60.1                   | 39.9 |
| 1946 | 52,392          | 30,548     | 82,940     | 63.2                   | 36.8 |
| 1947 | 52,802          | 31,345     | 84,147     | 62.7                   | 37.3 |
| 1948 | 51,266          | 33,921     | 85,187     | 60.2                   | 39.8 |
| 1949 | 58,426          | 37,175     | 95,601     | 61.3                   | 38.7 |
| 1950 | 59,997          | 40,657     | 100,654    | 59.6                   | 40.4 |

1/ Spring season begins December 1 of preceding year.

2/ June 1-November 30.

Table 7.- Spring pig crop as percentage of annual crop, by regions and by States of the North Central region, 5-year averages, 1926-30 to date

| Period: | North Central      |      |      |      |      |                    |      |      |      |      | West North Central |      |      |      |      |           |      |      |      |      | Other States |      |      |      |      |          |      |      |      |      | Total  |      |      |      | United States |       |      |       |      |          |          |         |      |         |      |               |      |      |      |      |       |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |       |      |      |      |      |         |      |       |      |          |      |         |      |         |      |               |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |  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|         | East North Central |      |      |      |      | West North Central |      |      |      |      | Four Plains States |      |      |      |      | Minnesota |      |      |      |      | Iowa         |      |      |      |      | Missouri |      |      |      |      | Total  |      |      |      |               | North |      | South |      | Atlantic |          | Central |      | Western |      | United States |      |      |      |      |       |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |       |      |      |      |      |         |      |       |      |          |      |         |      |         |      |               |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |  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|         | Ohio               |      |      |      |      | Indiana            |      |      |      |      | Illinois           |      |      |      |      | Michigan  |      |      |      |      | Wisconsin    |      |      |      |      | North    |      |      |      |      | Dakota |      |      |      |               | South |      |       |      |          | Nebraska |         |      |         |      | Kansas        |      |      |      |      | Total |      |      |      |      | West |      |      |      |      | North |      |      |      |      | Central |      | South |      | Atlantic |      | Central |      | Western |      | United States |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |  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Table 8.- Percentage distribution of United States annual pig crops by regions, and by States of the North Central region, 5-year averages, 1926-30 to date

| Period:  | North Central      |      |         |          |          |                    |              |              |              |          | United States |       |           |      |          |       |                    |                |               |               |     |       |
|----------|--------------------|------|---------|----------|----------|--------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|----------|---------------|-------|-----------|------|----------|-------|--------------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|-----|-------|
|          | East North Central |      |         |          |          | West North Central |              |              |              |          | Other States  |       |           |      |          | Total |                    |                |               |               |     |       |
|          |                    |      |         |          |          | Four Plains States |              |              |              |          |               |       |           |      |          |       |                    |                |               |               |     |       |
|          | North Atlantic     | Ohio | Indiana | Illinois | Michigan | Wisconsin          | East Central | North Dakota | South Dakota | Nebraska | Kansas        | Total | Minnesota | Iowa | Missouri | Total | West North Central | South Atlantic | South Central | United States |     |       |
| Pct.     | Pct.               | Pct. | Pct.    | Pct.     | Pct.     | Pct.               | Pct.         | Pct.         | Pct.         | Pct.     | Pct.          | Pct.  | Pct.      | Pct. | Pct.     | Pct.  | Pct.               | Pct.           | Pct.          |               |     |       |
| 1926-30: | 2.0                | 5.0  | 6.0     | 8.3      | 1.6      | 3.4                | 24.3         | 1.5          | 4.6          | 8.3      | 4.2           | 18.6  | 7.3       | 18.2 | 7.1      | 33.2  | 51.8               | 76.1           | 6.3           | 11.5          | 4.1 | 100.0 |
| 1931-35: | 1.8                | 5.0  | 6.9     | 9.1      | 1.5      | 3.4                | 26.5         | 1.3          | 3.5          | 7.3      | 4.3           | 16.4  | 6.6       | 17.6 | 7.0      | 31.2  | 47.6               | 74.1           | 6.9           | 13.4          | 3.8 | 100.0 |
| 1936-40: | 2.3                | 6.3  | 7.7     | 9.4      | 1.8      | 3.9                | 29.1         | 1.0          | 2.2          | 3.9      | 2.4           | 9.5   | 6.9       | 17.2 | 5.8      | 29.9  | 39.4               | 68.5           | 8.6           | 16.0          | 4.6 | 100.0 |
| 1941-45: | 2.2                | 5.8  | 7.5     | 9.8      | 1.7      | 3.8                | 28.6         | 1.4          | 2.7          | 4.4      | 2.7           | 11.2  | 6.9       | 18.0 | 6.4      | 31.3  | 42.5               | 71.1           | 7.9           | 14.6          | 4.2 | 100.0 |
| 1946-50: | 2.0                | 6.0  | 8.0     | 10.5     | 1.6      | 3.5                | 29.6         | 0.9          | 2.6          | 4.2      | 2.0           | 9.7   | 6.5       | 19.7 | 6.9      | 33.1  | 42.8               | 72.4           | 8.7           | 13.8          | 3.1 | 100.0 |



The increase in the proportion of all pigs produced in the fall has two origins. It arises in part because more and more farmers in most sections of the country have shifted away from a one-crop system in hog raising. They have adopted instead the two-crop system, which, where it is feasible, yields a larger return from the hog enterprise in relation to investment. The second origin of the larger fall pig crops as shown by United States totals is the declining position of certain regions that typically produce only spring pigs.

The preceding tables 7 and 8 illustrate these two separate factors. Table 7 shows that in each region with the single exception of the North Atlantic States the spring pig crop has been a declining percentage of the annual crop since the 1920's. The rate of change was fairly sharp in the East and West North Central regions, which contain the Corn Belt, but less so in the South and West. Within the Corn Belt the fall pig crop has gained importance in nearly all States; the only exceptions are North and South Dakota and Kansas. States such as Ohio, Indiana and Missouri have almost reached a point where the fall crop equals the spring crop. Certain other States have shown a marked change in the 25-year period but are still predominantly spring crop States. The big producing State of Iowa, for example, had 77 percent of its year's crop in the spring in 1926-30 and had shifted to 71 percent by 1946-50.

Four States that on the whole are mainly spring-crop producers have contributed a declining percentage of the total United States pig crops over the past 25 years. These are North and South Dakota, Nebraska and Kansas. In 1926-30 they raised 18.6 percent of all United States pigs but in 1946-50 they raised only 9.7 percent. The lowered standing of this tier of Plains States, which in 1946-50 raised 76 percent of its pigs in the spring, and the rising position of a number of other States that produce sizable fall as well as spring pig crops, has increased the proportion of fall pigs in the United States annual pig crops.

#### SELECTED FEATURES, THE LIVESTOCK AND MEAT SITUATION 1950 WITH ISSUE DATES

##### Cattle and calves:

Cash receipts, February, April, August.

Cost and margin of feeding steers, March, August, October.

Feeding, January, February, August, November, December.

Imports of cattle, March, July.

Live weight of slaughter, February, April, June, October.

Number January 1, February, October.

Outlook, October.

Price control, August, September.

Prices of beef steers by grades, January, February, April, May, October, November.

Slaughter by classes, April, October, November.

World numbers, April.



## Feed:

Feed balance sheet, February, July, October.  
Feed concentrate supply and meat production, July, October.  
Feed production, March.  
Market prices, June.  
Outlook, October.

## Hog and hog products:

Cash receipts, February, April, August.  
Changes in the relative importance of spring and fall pig crops,  
December.  
Comparisons of sows farrowed and hogs slaughtered, January.  
Hog-corn ratio, February, May.  
Hog-corn ratio and sows farrowing, March, September.  
Hog numbers January 1 and June 1, February, June.  
Hog prices by weights, January, February.  
Lard production, February, May, June.  
Live weight of slaughter, February, April, June, July, October.  
Outlook, October.  
Pig crops, February, March, June, October, December.  
Prices barrows and gilts, June, October.  
Price controls, September.  
Receipts, July.  
Slaughter, February, May, June, August, September, October.  
Sows farrowing, March, June, December.  
Spread between wholesale value of hog products and price of live hogs,  
January.  
Support prices, June.  
World slaughter, December.

## Horses and mules:

Numbers January 1, February.  
Outlook, October.

## Livestock, general:

Grading system, May.  
Location of slaughter plants and trend in volume, September.  
Numbers on farms January 1, February.  
Parity prices of meat animals, February.  
Prices by classes, February, June.  
Slaughter, February, May, June, July, September.  
Subsidies, April.

## Meats:

Canned meat, June.  
Consumption, February, May, June, October.  
Demand, March, May.  
Edible offals, May.  
Foreign trade, February, August.  
Inspection service, May.  
Locker and home freezers as factor in demand for meat, September.  
Marketing margins, January.  
Meat graded, May.  
Outlook, October.  
Retail value, January, February, May, June, August, October, December.  
Prices, December.  
Production, January, February, April, May, June, July, August, October.  
Supply and distribution, February, May.  
World production, May, August.

## Sheep and lambs:

Cash receipts, February, April, August.  
Cost and margin of feeding lambs, April.  
Feeding, January, February, August, November, December.  
Live weight of slaughter, February, April, October.  
Numbers January 1, February.  
Outlook, October.  
Prices, February, May, October.  
Price controls, September.  
World numbers, April.  
Wool, February, March, August, December.

Indexes of other years may be found in December issues beginning 1945.



## Selected Price Statistics for Meat Animals 1/

| Item  | Unit         | Jan.-Nov. |         | 1949<br>Nov. | 1950  |       |      |
|---|--------------|-----------|---------|--------------|-------|-------|------|
|   |              | 1949      | 1950    |              | Oct.  | Nov.  | Dec. |
| Cattle and calves                                       |              |           |         |              |       |       |      |
| Beef steers, slaughter                                  | Dollars per: |           |         |              |       |       |      |
| Chicago, Choice and Prime                               | 100 pounds   | 28.84     | 32.49   | 36.25        | 31.94 | 33.10 |      |
| Good  | do.          | 26.11     | 29.28   | 29.35        | 30.42 | 31.24 |      |
| Medium  | do.          | 23.06     | 26.67   | 24.26        | 27.56 | 28.15 |      |
| Common  | do.          | 19.77     | 23.15   | 19.02        | 22.76 | 23.90 |      |
| All grades  | do.          | 25.79     | 28.80   | 28.21        | 30.49 | 31.41 |      |
| Omaha, all grades                                       | do.          | 24.34     | 27.53   | 25.36        | 29.44 | 30.06 |      |
| Sioux City, all grades                                  | do.          | 24.61     | 27.74   | 26.02        | 29.56 | 30.47 |      |
| Cows, Chicago   |              |           |         |              |       |       |      |
| Good  | do.          | 18.92     | 21.75   | 17.56        | 22.10 | 22.88 |      |
| Common  | do.          | 2/15.52   | 18.86   | 2/13.87      | 19.58 | 20.46 |      |
| Canner and Cutter                                       | do.          | 3/14.49   | 16.31   | 3/12.89      | 16.74 | 17.82 |      |
| Vealers, Good and Choice, Chicago                       | do.          | 27.64     | 30.93   | 26.95        | 32.52 | 32.30 |      |
| Stocker and feeder steers, Kansas City                  | do.          | 21.86     | 26.32   | 21.45        | 26.92 | 28.46 |      |
| Price received by farmers                               |              |           |         |              |       |       |      |
| Beef cattle   | do.          | 20.00     | 22.92   | 18.90        | 24.30 | 25.00 |      |
| Veal calves   | do.          | 23.05     | 26.03   | 21.70        | 27.50 | 28.20 |      |
| Hogs  |              |           |         |              |       |       |      |
| Barrows and gilts                                       |              |           |         |              |       |       |      |
| Chicago   |              |           |         |              |       |       |      |
| 160-180 pounds  | do.          | 19.81     | 18.89   | 16.10        | 19.07 | 18.23 |      |
| 180-200 pounds  | do.          | 20.22     | 19.47   | 16.33        | 19.51 | 18.47 |      |
| 200-220 pounds  | do.          | 20.30     | 19.62   | 16.29        | 19.72 | 18.42 |      |
| 220-240 pounds  | do.          | 20.15     | 19.55   | 16.18        | 19.84 | 18.33 |      |
| 240-270 pounds  | do.          | 19.79     | 19.27   | 16.05        | 19.87 | 18.23 |      |
| 270-300 pounds  | do.          | 19.23     | 18.85   | 15.92        | 19.82 | 18.16 |      |
| All weights   | do.          | 19.64     | 19.17   | 16.04        | 19.64 | 18.21 |      |
| Seven markets 4/  | do.          | 19.50     | 19.13   | 15.79        | 19.47 | 18.05 |      |
| Sows, Chicago   | do.          | 16.55     | 16.71   | 14.74        | 18.41 | 17.08 |      |
| Price received by farmers                               | do.          | 18.63     | 18.26   | 15.60        | 19.20 | 17.80 |      |
| Hog-corn price ratio 5/                                 |              |           |         |              |       |       |      |
| Chicago, barrows and gilts                              | do.          | 15.0      | 13.1    | 13.9         | 12.9  | 11.5  |      |
| Price received by farmers, all hogs                     | do.          | 15.9      | 13.8    | 15.3         | 14.0  | 13.0  |      |
| Sheep and lambs   |              |           |         |              |       |       |      |
| Sheep   |              |           |         |              |       |       |      |
| Slaughter ewes, Good and Choice, Chicago                | do.          | 10.80     | 12.37   | 11.09        | 14.34 | 15.47 |      |
| Price received by farmers                               | do.          | 9.47      | 11.11   | 8.86         | 12.80 | 13.20 |      |
| Lambs   |              |           |         |              |       |       |      |
| Slaughter, Good and Choice, Chicago                     | do.          | 25.77     | 26.92   | 23.13        | 27.98 | 29.41 |      |
| Feeding, Good and Choice, Omaha                         | do.          | 6/23.10   | 7/27.06 | 23.25        | 28.90 | 29.22 |      |
| Price received by farmers                               | do.          | 22.85     | 24.45   | 21.40        | 25.80 | 26.70 |      |
| All meat animals  |              |           |         |              |       |       |      |
| Index number price received by farmers<br>(1910-14=100) |              | 314       | 338     | 286          | 358   | 357   |      |
| Meat  |              |           |         |              |       |       |      |
| Wholesale, Chicago                                      | Dollars per: |           |         |              |       |       |      |
| Steer beef carcass, Good, 500-600 pounds                | 100 pounds   | 42.44     | 46.52   | 47.26        | 48.13 | 50.32 |      |
| Lamb carcass, Good, 30-40 pounds                        | do.          | 50.11     | 8/51.24 | 46.36        | 50.05 | 52.64 |      |
| Composite hog products, including lard                  |              |           |         |              |       |       |      |
| 72.84 pounds fresh                                      | Dollars      | 21.33     | 20.46   | 17.42        | 20.20 | 19.68 |      |
| Average per 100 pounds                                  | do.          | 29.28     | 28.09   | 23.92        | 27.73 | 27.02 |      |
| 71.32 pounds fresh and cured                            | do.          | 24.99     | 23.75   | 21.32        | 24.18 | 23.18 |      |
| Average per 100 pounds                                  | do.          | 35.04     | 33.30   | 29.89        | 33.90 | 32.50 |      |
| Retail, United States average                           | Cents        |           |         |              |       |       |      |
| Beef, Good grade  | per pound    | 66.6      | 73.0    | 69.6         | 76.3  | 76.4  |      |
| Lamb  | do.          | 67.7      | 69.2    | 62.5         | 69.3  | 71.2  |      |
| Pork, including lard                                    | do.          | 41.5      | 40.6    | 37.9         | 42.8  | 41.2  |      |
| Index number meat prices (BLS)                          |              |           |         |              |       |       |      |
| Wholesale (1926=100)                                    |              | 223       | 235     | 213          | 241   | 240   |      |
| Retail (1935-39=100)                                    |              | 230       | 241     | 226          | 250   | 248   |      |

1/ Annual data for most series published in Statistical Appendix to this Situation, February 1950.

2/ Cutter and Common.

3/ Average for prices of Cutter and Common, and of Canner (Low Cutter).

4/ Chicago, St. Louis N. S. Y., Kansas City, Omaha, Sioux City, S. St. Joseph, and S. St. Paul.

5/ Number bushels of corn equivalent in value to 100 pounds of live hogs.

6/ Average of prices for August, September, October and November.

7/ Average of prices for January, February, March, August, September, October and November.

8/ Prices of 45-50 pound lambs used for March, April and May. No price for February.

Selected marketing, slaughter and stocks statistics for meat animals and meats <sup>1/</sup>

| Item   | Unit      | Jan.-Nov. |        | 1949<br>Nov. | 1950  |       |      |
|--|-----------|-----------|--------|--------------|-------|-------|------|
|  |           | 1949      | 1950   |              | Oct.  | Nov.  | Dec. |
| Meat animal marketings                               |           |           |        |              |       |       |      |
| Index number (1935-39=100) .....                     |           | 138       | 140    | 168          | 168   | 165   |      |
| Stocker and feeder shipments to                      |           |           |        |              |       |       |      |
| 8 Corn Belt States                                   | :1,000    |           |        |              |       |       |      |
| Cattle and calves .....                              | head      | 3,060     | 2,888  | 432          | 763   | 483   |      |
| Sheep and lambs .....                                | do.       | 2,446     | 2,663  | 212          | 591   | 238   |      |
| Slaughter under Federal inspection                   |           |           |        |              |       |       |      |
| Number slaughtered                                   |           |           |        |              |       |       |      |
| Cattle .....   | do.       | 12,157    | 11,993 | 1,116        | 1,169 | 1,151 |      |
| Calves .....   | do.       | 5,939     | 5,404  | 585          | 515   | 505   |      |
| Sheep and lambs .....                                | do.       | 11,079    | 10,821 | 1,060        | 1,081 | 969   |      |
| Hogs .....   | do.       | 46,555    | 50,187 | 6,003        | 5,102 | 6,144 |      |
| Percentage sows .....                                | Percent   | 16        | ---    | 10           | 10    | ---   |      |
| Average live weight per head                         |           |           |        |              |       |       |      |
| Cattle .....   | Pounds    | 976       | 986    | 968          | 988   | 998   |      |
| Calves .....   | do.       | 209       | 206    | 237          | 225   | 214   |      |
| Sheep and lambs .....                                | do.       | 94        | 96     | 95           | 93    | 95    |      |
| Hogs .....   | do.       | 248       | 244    | 236          | 230   | 237   |      |
| Average production                                   |           |           |        |              |       |       |      |
| Beef, per head .....                                 | do.       | 532       | 541    | 510          | 535   | 534   |      |
| Veal, per head .....                                 | do.       | 116       | 115    | 129          | 124   | 117   |      |
| Lamb and mutton, per head .....                      | do.       | 44        | 46     | 45           | 44    | 45    |      |
| Pork, per head <sup>2/</sup> .....                   | do.       | 56        | 56     | 57           | 57    | 56    |      |
| Pork, per 100 pounds live weight <sup>2/</sup> ..... | do.       | 140       | 136    | 134          | 131   | 134   |      |
| Lard, per head .....                                 | do.       | 36        | 35     | 33           | 32    | 33    |      |
| Lard, per 100 pounds live weight ..                  | do.       | 15        | 14     | 14           | 14    | 14    |      |
| Total production                                     | :Million: |           |        |              |       |       |      |
| Beef .....   | pounds    | 6,442     | 6,448  | 566          | 623   | 611   |      |
| Veal .....   | do.       | 685       | 618    | 75           | 64    | 58    |      |
| Lamb and mutton .....                                | do.       | 487       | 492    | 48           | 47    | 43    |      |
| Pork <sup>2/</sup> .....                             | do.       | 6,471     | 6,864  | 801          | 666   | 821   |      |
| Lard .....   | do.       | 1,691     | 1,767  | 199          | 162   | 201   |      |
| Total commercial slaughter <sup>3/</sup>             |           |           |        |              |       |       |      |
| Number slaughtered                                   | :1,000    |           |        |              |       |       |      |
| Cattle .....   | head      | 16,585    | ---    | 1,536        | 1,588 | ---   |      |
| Calves .....   | do.       | 9,990     | ---    | 963          | 871   | ---   |      |
| Sheep and lambs .....                                | do.       | 12,225    | ---    | 1,166        | 1,180 | ---   |      |
| Hogs .....   | do.       | 56,144    | ---    | 7,072        | 6,098 | ---   |      |
| Total production                                     | :Million: |           |        |              |       |       |      |
| Beef .....   | pounds    | 8,425     | ---    | 751          | 813   | ---   |      |
| Veal .....   | do.       | 1,143     | ---    | 119          | 105   | ---   |      |
| Lamb and mutton .....                                | do.       | 534       | ---    | 52           | 51    | ---   |      |
| Pork <sup>2/</sup> .....                             | do.       | 7,722     | ---    | 941          | 796   | ---   |      |
| Lard .....   | do.       | 1,910     | ---    | 224          | 186   | ---   |      |
| Cold storage stocks first of month                   |           |           |        |              |       |       |      |
| Beef .....   | do.       | ---       | ---    | 70           | 81    | 95    | 114  |
| Veal .....   | do.       | ---       | ---    | 9            | 8     | 9     | 12   |
| Lamb and mutton .....                                | do.       | ---       | ---    | 8            | 6     | 8     | 10   |
| Pork .....   | do.       | ---       | ---    | 210          | 241   | 220   | 319  |
| Total meat and meat products <sup>4/</sup> .....     | do.       | ---       | ---    | 370          | 410   | 405   | 542  |

<sup>1/</sup> Annual data for most series published in Statistical Appendix to this Situation, February 1950.<sup>2/</sup> Excludes lard.<sup>3/</sup> Federally inspected, and other wholesale and retail.<sup>4/</sup> Includes stocks of sausage and sausage room products, canned meats and canned meat products, and edible offals, in addition to the four meats listed.



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